

### ALLOWING CHOICE IN HEALTH CARE

(Mr. EWING asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. EWING. Mr. Speaker, I yield to the gentleman from Arizona [Mr. HAYWORTH].

Mr. HAYWORTH. Mr. Speaker, as we take a look at what has been said in the preceding speech, I think it is the proper question to ask, or the proper contention to make, are—

#### PARLIAMENTARY INQUIRY

Mr. GENE GREEN of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I have a parliamentary inquiry.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The gentleman will state it.

Mr. GENE GREEN of Texas. Mr. Speaker, is it permissible to yield in 1-minute?

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. GUTKNECHT). The gentleman from Illinois [Mr. EWING] controls the time. The Chair is informed by the Parliamentarian he may yield to the gentleman from Arizona [Mr. HAYWORTH] while remaining on his feet.

Mr. GENE GREEN of Texas. Just so we all understand the rules.

Mr. HAYWORTH. Mr. Speaker, reclaiming my time, I would simply make this point: The American people are watching, not for partisan squabbling, but asking this question: What works? And the notion that medical savings accounts, where people control their own destiny, where people are able to visit the doctors they want to see and seek the treatment they feel is best, is at the very heart of our American system. And to suggest that it is some sort of cheap political ploy is once again to at least ignore the facts or to engage in deliberate disinformation and distortion to cloud the picture and to again try to confuse the American public, instead of allowing the American public what they deserve, and that is choice health care.

#### PARLIAMENTARY INQUIRY

Ms. MCKINNEY. Mr. Speaker, I have a parliamentary inquiry.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The gentleman will state it.

Ms. MCKINNEY. Mr. Speaker, is it not correct that \$1.4 million was given to the Republican candidates by the Golden Rule Insurance Co. and now the Republicans are trying to put—

Mr. HAYWORTH. Mr. Speaker, objection. That is not a parliamentary inquiry. She is making a political speech.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair would inform the gentleman that that is not a parliamentary inquiry.

### WELFARE PAYING MORE THAN MINIMUM WAGE

(Mr. GENE GREEN of Texas asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. GENE GREEN of Texas. Mr. Speaker, last week the Houston Chronicle ran a story about how welfare pays more than the minimum wage. We hear a lot of rhetoric about moving people off welfare and into work, but the Republican leadership refuses a simple up or down vote on providing a liberal wage.

Using the current minimum wage, workers putting in their 40 hours a week for 52 weeks would earn just over \$8,800. A working family supported by a minimum wage earner is below the national poverty level and is eligible to collect welfare benefits.

A minimum wage increase will give my constituents and other working Americans the ability to move off the welfare rolls, but Republicans continue to oppose a minimum wage increase. Instead of bringing this issue to a vote, they have proposed yet another Government subsidy for businesses. This measure is nothing more than a huge entitlement and more public assistance, more welfare, when what we need is a job that pays enough to put food on the table.

The Washington Post said today that the Senate majority leader wants to cut the gas tax and raise the minimum wage. Let us do it. I think that is a good bill.

Let us do it, Mr. Speaker. Democrats want working families to work their way off welfare. It is time for the Republicans to do the same. Support a minimum wage increase.

### REPEAL 1993 GAS TAX

(Mrs. SEASTRAND asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend her remarks.)

Mrs. SEASTRAND. Mr. Speaker, we keep hearing all this handwringing from the other side about gas prices. But what you won't hear from the liberal Democrats on the other side is how they raised the gas tax in 1993.

Not one single Republican in this body supported that Democrat-sponsored tax increase. Thanks to President Clinton and his liberal allies, the American people now pay \$4.8 billion a year more for gas. That's on top of the ever-increasing prices that they pay today.

If Democrats are really concerned about the plight of the average motorist, then they should support the repeal of their 1993 increase on the gas tax. That may not cure everything, but it's a very good start.

Earlier this year, Bill Clinton and the Democrats had the opportunity to cut taxes for the Americans. But they were committed to protecting Washington spending.

I believe they should be given another opportunity to reduce the tax burden on the American people. Let's repeal the 1993 Clinton gas tax.

### DROP IDEA OF MEDICAL SAVINGS ACCOUNTS

(Mrs. CLAYTON asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend her remarks.)

Mrs. CLAYTON. Mr. Speaker, our colleagues on the right continue to press for inclusion of the medical savings account proposal in the health insurance bill currently pending in Congress.

Once again, they want to burden average, working Americans to benefit the wealthy and influential.

According to the Urban Institute, if the medical savings account proposal is a part of the health insurance bill, premiums for a standard policy could skyrocket by as much as 60 percent.

If the Republicans have their way, employers win big and employees lose; high income individuals win big and those earning less than \$30,000 a year lose; influential insurance companies win big and average citizens lose.

In addition, according to the Urban Institute, workers may be forced into a single insurance, losing their right to choose.

Mr. Speaker, we have shaped a bipartisan health insurance plan where no citizen loses and all citizens win.

I urge my colleagues on the right to drop this idea of MSA's—an idea which cases many to lose, and support the proposal where all Americans win.

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### RIISING OIL PRICES AND OIL EXPORTS

(Mr. METCALF asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. METCALF. Mr. Speaker, the President of the United States yesterday released oil from the Strategic Petroleum Reserve in an effort to counter inflating gas prices. But last Friday President Clinton lifted the ban on exporting oil from Alaska. At a time when gas prices are soaring, he chose to sell United States gasoline to Asian nations instead of to American citizens.

The ban on exporting oil from Alaska was part of an agreement that allowed the building of the pipeline that supplies the United States. As we face soaring oil prices at home, we are preparing to reduce domestic supplies of oil by shipping it overseas.

Mr. Speaker, the President's decisions contradict each other. He is opening the Strategic Petroleum Reserves to lower the price of oil at the same time he prepares to expand shipments of American oil to foreign consumers. He is making the problem worse than it needs to be. The American public is paying the bill.

Mr. Speaker, I would say to the President, "Mr. President, will you please try to be consistent?"